

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01565 312355Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
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-----027784 010538Z /23
R 311032Z JUL 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, IZ, UK
SUBJECT: PNG AND RECIPROCITY

1. THE PRESS HAS HEAPED INVECTIVE ON THE UK WITH
REMARKABLE STRIDENCY SINCE LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
A NUMBER OF IRAQIS WERE BEING SENT DOWN. THE MAIN THEME
IS THE BASELESS AND FABRICATED NATURE OF THE ALLEGATIONS,
PART OF THE IMPERIALIST SCHEME TO DISCREDIT THE REVOLUTION
(AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK), WITH HEAVY OVERTONES OF REMINDERS
THAT THE DAYS OF COLONIAL DOMINATION ARE OVER. THE
BRITS HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN OR FORGIVEN THE FACT THAT
THEY WERE KICKED OUT OF HERE LONG AGO, AND THIS IS THE
SORT OF VESTIGIAL BEHAVIOR ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM FORMER
MASTERS.

2. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE GIVEN TO
THE DEMAND THAT THE UK CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES
IN PROTECTING IRAQI OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS. THE BOMB
ATTEMPT AGAINST IRAQI AMBASSADOR, ON THE OTHER HAND,
RECEIVED RELATIVELY MINOR ATTENTION COMPARED TO THE
PNG ACTION. THE PRESS HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT EXPELLING
THE BRITISH IS STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY.

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3. COMMENT: THE BRITISH EMBASSY IS RATHER RELAXED
ABOUT THE WHOLE THING; THE PNG'D PERSONNEL APPEAR TO
BE RATHER PLEASED TO BE LEAVING. THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT
OF TENSION, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE IRAQI PENCHANT FOR
OVERREACTION, AS EVIDENCED BY THE BEATING ADMINISTERED
TO ONE OF THE UK STAFF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. IN HIS

JULY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE, SADDAM HUSSEIN REFERRED TO
THIS INCIDENT IN A SOMEWHAT CALLOUS AND THREATENING
MANNER, SAYING THAT IF IRAQIS ARE TREAED LIKE SAVAGES
(THE ALLEGED POLICE BEATING OF AN IRAQI DIPLOMAT IN LONDON)
THEN IT IS PERFECTLY PROPER FOR THEM TO BEHAVE LIKE
SAVAGES. WHICH THEY DID.
PECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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